



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

BREASTFEEDING MONTH AUGUST 2014

- WHEREAS,** *Mother's milk alone meets infant needs during the first six months of life, and in combination with family foods during the second six months of life or longer; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Exclusive breastfeeding is the normal way for mothers to feed babies. Besides providing optimal nutrition for growth and development, breastfeeding affords infants natural immunity against infection and allergies, helps eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, reduces child mortality, and improves maternal health; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Breastfeeding nurtures the mother-infant bond, while at the same time helping society "go green". Breast milk insures environmental sustainability. It is the only non-polluting, renewable baby food source; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Breastfeeding is a winning goal, affecting not only the baby, mother, and family, but society as well. Fostering collaboration among employers, healthcare professionals, the media, and the public in supporting those who breastfeed enhances success; and*
- WHEREAS,** *In aligning with national goals, including those of the United States Surgeon General, the Affordable Care Act, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the majority of health care professionals, and goals within Maryland, including the Maryland Hospital Breastfeeding Policies, Maryland citizens are encouraged to choose to breastfeed their own children and support breastfeeding mothers and babies.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim AUGUST 2014 as the BREASTFEEDING MONTH in Maryland, and call upon the people of our state to join in supporting this observance.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,

*this 1st day of
Two Thousand*

August

and fourteen

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert L. Brown
Lt. Governor

Joe C. McPherson
Secretary of State